19th August 1925]

APPENDIX II.

[Vide answer to question No. 94 asked by Mr. K. Raghuchandra Ballal at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 19th August 1925, page 166 supra.]

Report of the President, District Board, South Kanara, dated 14th March 1925.

It is a fact that M.R.Ry. Rao Bahadur S. Raghunathayya Avargal, late President of the Mangalore Taluk Board, was taken suddenly ill of cerebral hæmorrhage on the 30th December last, i.e., during the Christmas holidays, but he was not unconscious during the whole period of his illness though he became semi-conscious at times.

2. As Mr. Raghunathayya was unable to attend to his duties on the re-opening of the office on 3rd January 1925, Mr. B. M. D'Souza his Vice-President performed them under section 23 (2) of the Local Boards Act until the 6th idem. As the latter had to leave Mangalore for Bombay on the 7th January 1925 on some urgent private business the Taluk Board President delegated his powers to M.R.Ry. Nellikai Venkat Rao Avargal, a member of the Taluk Board and Chairman of the Mangalore Municipal Council and one of the most respected citizens of Mangalore. As Mr. Raghunathayya was forbidden by his medical adviser to move from his bed, the letter of delegation was read out to him and his facsimile seal was under his instruction affixed to it in the presence of his son M.R.Ry. Ramanath Sahir Avargal, who is a District Munsif in Kurnool and who was in Mangalore on leave at the time.

3. The Treasury Deputy Collector of South Kanara objected in the first instance to honor the cheques issued by the President-delegate; but the Accountant-General to whom the matter was referred said that there was no objection to those cheques being honored. But in the meantime the Vice-President returned from Bombay and fresh cheques were issued and payments made. The delay such as there was, in making the payments of salaries was not therefore due to any want of arrangements made for making the payments but was due to a technical objection.

4. It is a fact that the Taluk Board President M.R.Ry Rao Bahadur S. Raghunathayya died on the 7th January 1925, but it is not a fact that the correspondence addressed to the President, Taluk Board, Mangalore, remained piled up and untouched by the President-delegate. There were three holidays, viz., 11th, 12th and 13th being Sunday and Pongal holidays and the President-delegate who is Chairman of the Mangalore Municipality had to attend to certain functions of the National Health and Baby Week and hence the ordinary tapal for four days could not be opened; but until the return of the Vice-President from Bombay all the work was done by him except the issue of cheques.

5. The interference of the District Board President is called for only under section 18 (3) of the Local Boards Act if both the offices of president and vice-president of a taluk board are vacant. In the present case although the office of president fell on the 7th January 1925, in consequence of Mr. Raghunathayya's death, the office of the vice-president was not vacant. Hence the interference of the District Board President was not called for in the matter.